

**STATE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
DOVER, DELAWARE**

**THURSDAY, May 11, 2017**

The May monthly meeting of the Delaware State Human Relations Commission was held by video-conference the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Conference Room A, Dover, Delaware; and the Carvel Building, 820 N. French Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Arts Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware.

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**Attendance:**

**Commission Members Present** Chairperson Calvin Christopher. Commissioners Mashoor Awad, Diaz Bonville, Whittona Burrell, Chok-Fun Chui, Doug James, Gail Launay-Tarlecki, Nancy Maihoff, Lorenzo Murdaugh, Olga Ramirez and Robert Watson, Jr. DAG Carla Jarosz.

**Commission Members not present:** Commissioners Jamaal Bivens (unexcused), Erika Caesar (excused), Bernice Edwards (excused), Earnest Gulab (unexcused), J. Michael Harpe (unexcused), Kerri Harris (excused), Rose Mary Hendrix (unexcused), Jordan Hines (unexcused), Prameela Kaza (excused), Lorenzo Murdaugh (unexcused), Walter Smith Jr. (excused), Roy Sudler Jr. (unexcused), Rosemarie Williams (excused) and Delores Finger Wright (unexcused).

**Staff from Division of Human Relations Office:** Romona Fullman, Vincent Petroff, Natalie Fountain and Kelly Fox.

**Members of the public present:** Sara Herbert

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**I Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher at 5:42 p.m. followed by a period of silent meditation.

**II Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the April SHRC meeting were submitted. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Commissioner Ramirez. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Awad. Natalie Fountain from the Division was not listed as being in attendance. Commissioner Awad requested that a correction be made in the good news section to show it is his son who is graduated. Corrections to be made. A vote was taken, motion carries with no opposition.

**III Members of the Public Present**

Sara Herbert introduced herself as a member of the Dover Human Relations Commission.

#### IV Chair's Report

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Fair Housing Summit – Chair Christopher expressed appreciation for Division staff and Commissioners who participated in the Fair Housing Summit that was held for Fair Housing Month in April.			
<p>Muslim-American Community Unity Rally – Chair Christopher requested comments from Commissioners who attended.</p> <p>Commissioner Ramirez shared that the event was well attended and she was impressed with the Muslim community mobilization in a short period of time.</p> <p>Commissioner Chui also attended the event and she echoed Commissioner Ramirez sentiments. She expressed disappointment that not many school children that attended. Commissioner Awad shared that the day of the rally was a school day.</p> <p>Commissioner Awad thanked Commissioners for their support of the event. The letter of support from the Commission was posted on Facebook page of the Unity Rally organizers. It was also hand-delivered to the organizers and heavily circulated. The letter was mentioned during the rally; however time did not permit the letter to be read.</p>			
Statements of Support – Chair Christopher reported			

<p>that the Commission adopted a generic letter of support a few meetings ago for various groups or initiatives. The letter does not have to be recreated for future use; it can be modified for the purpose needed. Chair Christopher indicated there was some question as to how the recent letter was circulated. The Division is part of the Secretary of State's office; the Commission is not. The Division needs approval from the Secretary of State's office for letters, the Commission does not. However, it is a courtesy for the Commission to request approval for letters of support to be sent. The Secretary of State's office has the ability to identify different media outlets to send correspondence and press releases to.</p> <p>Director Fullman and DAG Jarosz agreed the SHRC's position on an issue does not require the approval of the Secretary of State's Office or the Governor's Office. It was recommended that the Public Awareness Committee develop and maintain a current media list to supplement the support and resources of the Secretary of State's Office.</p> <p>DAG Carla Jarosz advised that written communications on the SHRC's position can be sent to the Secretary's Office for awareness and as a courtesy. The Secretary's Office has discretion over whether it will distribute.</p>	Develop a media contact list	Public Awareness Committee	Undefined
<p>Joint Legislative Oversight &amp; Sunset Committee (JLOSC) Recommendations – Chair Christopher reported the draft bill with recommendations made and accepted. At the May 11<sup>th</sup> JLOSC meeting the vote on the draft bill was postponed to give the SHRC more time to discuss and vote on the entire draft. Discussion of the draft:</p>			

<p>The Commission number will be reduced to 18 from 28. Maintaining diversity on the Commission is important. The Chair will reach out to Commissioners that may be interested in resigning.</p> <p>The Executive Committee – whether it should be appointed by the Chair (current practice) or elected by the Full Commission. The recommendation is that the full Commission elects the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The draft bill was distributed to the Commissioners with a summary of the changes. DAG Carla Jarosz reviewed the changes proposed in the draft:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Section 3002 – The proposal is that the Executive Committee be elected. The SHRC bylaws indicate the Chair appoints the Executive Committee.</li> <li>2. The draft bill increase the maximum annual reimbursement for service on hearing panels from \$500 to \$1,500.</li> </ol> <p>Director Fullman pointed out that the draft bill does not appear to require the Chair to be a member of the Commission. DAG Carla Jarosz will seek clarification on the statements in parenthesis.</p> <p>There was discussion on whether the Commission would like to establish a process to elect the Executive Committee or let the Chair will select the Executive Committee. Commissioner Awad and Ramirez feel the Chair should select the Executive Committee. Chair Christopher noted that the selection is typically based on Commissioners expressed interests.</p>			
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<p>Commissioner Maihoff questioned line 14 concerning the term of Commissioners. She feels adding the line excluding the Chair is confusing. DAG Carla Jarosz will seek clarification.</p> <p>Director Fullman advised that Commissioner Awad is not feeling well and will need to leave. When he leaves there will no longer be a quorum.</p> <p>Motion made by Commission Maihoff to remove the phrase (excluding the Chair) from line 14. Add the phrase from line 40, (The Chair shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.) to line 14. Seconded by Commissioner Burrell. A vote was taken following discussion. Motion carries with no opposition.</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Maihoff to accept line 42 to be accepted. The Commission may elect the Executive Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Watson. Commissioner Burrell asked what happens if the Commission opts out of making the election. Commissioner Awad was excused at 6:35 p.m. Following Commissioner Awad being excused there was no longer a quorum. A vote could not be taken.</p> <p>Follow Commissioner Awad's excusal a discussion on the topic continued, however no actions/votes were taken.</p> <p>SB49 Homeless Bill of Rights – The remaining Commissioners discussed the Homeless Bill of Rights. Chair Christopher expressed that the bill is supported in spirit. However, there is no fiscal note attached to this bill. There is concern of the Division/Commissions ability to enforce SB49</p>			
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<p>without additional resources provided.</p> <p>Commissioner James inquired if the Commission could recommend approaching the homeless situation in a way similar to what is being done in Utah. He suggested having someone present information on how this is working. Chair Christopher asked Commissioner James gather data to present to the Commission. Commissioner Burrell offered assistance to Commissioner James.</p> <p>DAG Carla Jarosz advised that the Commission can express concern at the JLOSC hearing next week over the lack of a fiscal note and the financial impacts. The Commission can continue the conversation regarding the support of the bill at the next Commission meeting.</p> <p>Director Fullman will request a briefing with Senators Townsend and Boulden as sponsors of the bill.</p>	<p>Gather information on Utah's process for addressing homelessness.</p> <p>Request a briefing with Senators Townsend and Boulden</p>	<p>Commissioner James</p> <p>Director Fullman</p>	<p>Undefined</p> <p>Undefined</p>
<p>Death Penalty Legislation – Chair Christopher shared that the legislation to reinstitute the death penalty has passed the House and will move to the Senate. Chair Christopher asked what position the Commission would like to take on the legislation. Director Fullman distributed the letter written on May 26, 2015 by the Commission. The Commission was not able to take a vote due to the lack of a quorum.</p>			

## V Director's Report

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Director Fullman participated in a hate crime forum at the Jewish Community Center recently on the connection between fair housing and hate crimes. Despite a recent incident involving the JCC the forum was not well attended. Several attendees commented that education and awareness activities need to be scheduled immediately following incidents of hate.			
Director Fullman had previously emailed events that Commissioners can participate in. She thanked those Commissioners who responded and have participated.			
Director Fullman shared that evaluations received at the Fair Housing Summit were favorable. She thanked those Commissioners who attended.			
<p>Racial Equity Community Café – Natalie Fountain and Commissioners Maihoff and Chui were part of the planning Committee. She indicated that Natalie reported the event was well attended and evaluations were favorable.</p> <p>Director Fullman shared the funding support from Secretary of State's Office for Natalie Fountain's position expires at end of the June. The Division considers her contributions critical to the fulfillment of the outreach and education duties and responsibilities of the SHRC/DHR. SHRC advocacy is welcomed.</p>	Contact the Secretary of State's office to request continued funding for Natalie Fountain's position.	All Commissioners	Undefined

## VI Committee Reports

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<p><u>Public Awareness Committee (PAW)</u> – No meeting this month. Chair Christopher advised he is seeking a Chair for the Public Awareness Committee. Commissioner James advised there is a Comcast Newsmakers for May 19<sup>th</sup>. He is looking for someone to do the segment.</p>			
<p><u>Legislative Committee (LEG)</u> – No report.</p>			
<p><u>Community Response Committee (CRC)</u> – Commissioner Maihoff reported the Committee agreed the candidate, Mr. Higgins that was interviewed last month was an excellent candidate for the Commission.</p> <p>Commissioner Maihoff is working with the Center for Community Justice at People’s Place doing curriculum revisions and updates. She recommends the Center’s mediation training. The cost of the training is \$250.00.</p> <p>Commissioner Chui reported the Racial Equity Community Café was well attended. Many young people participated in the Café. Commissioner Harris attended the last meeting for the Community Café. There are plans to continuing leading the conversation in additional events. At this time the group is in the Dover area. June 2<sup>nd</sup> is the next scheduled meeting of the group.</p>	<p>Provide details about the Peoples Place mediation training.</p>	<p>Commissioner Maihoff</p>	<p>Undefined</p>



<p>Commissioner Chui asked what the Commission can do to request Natalie Fountain's position be continued. Director Fullman encouraged Commissioners to reach out to the Secretary of State's office.</p> <p>Commissioner Maihoff shared the Committee is finishing up the mentoring manual. She hopes to present to the full Commission in September.</p>	<p>Contact the Secretary of State's office to request continued funding for Natalie Fountain's position.</p>	<p>All Commissioners</p>	<p>Undefined</p>
<p><u>Governor's Council on Equal Employment Opportunity Committee (GCEEO)</u> – Commissioner Launay-Tarlecki reported the April and May were cancelled. Next scheduled meeting is 6/7/17 9:00 a.m. in the Haslet Armory.</p> <p>Director Fullman encouraged Commissioners to review the Ivy Report. It is an opportunity for the Commission to find their place in this work.</p>			

## VII Old Business

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<p>Commissioner Watson requested the Commission Sunshine Fund be added as an agenda item for future Commission meetings. Director Fullman advised she will defer to DAG Carla Jarosz. DAG Carla Jarosz advised adding this as an agenda item Commissioner Launay-Tarlecki requested an accounting of fund be provided to Commissioners each month.</p>	<p>Accounting of Commission Sunshine Fund to be sent to Commissioners Watson and Hendrix prior to Commission meetings.</p>	<p>Kelly Brown</p>	<p>In advance of Commission meeting.</p>

## VIII New Business

<i><b>Topic / Discussion</b></i>	<i><b>Actions to be Taken</b></i>	<i><b>Leader</b></i>	<i><b>Due Date</b></i>
<p>Commissioner Burrell shared on May 1<sup>st</sup> she attended a Stand Against Racism rally held by the YWCA in Dover.</p> <p>Commissioner Burrell shared she attended the Gender Revolution screening at Cab Calloway School on May 4<sup>th</sup>. She indicated Commissioner Hines also attended. Natalie Fountain shared the video was available on YouTube. Natalie Fountain will email a link for the documentary.</p> <p>Commissioner Chui asked Chair Christopher give a gentle reminder to Commissioners that if a quorum is not met business cannot be conducted. Chair Christopher asked Commissioner Chui to get the wording to him.</p> <p>DAG Carla Jarosz encouraged the Commission reinvigorate the Legislative Committee.</p> <p>Commission Chui shared will be out of the country for June and July and will not be able to attend those meetings.</p> <p>Commissioner Maihoff requested a priority list be created for criteria needed for Commissioners as the size of the Commission is reduced. Chair Christopher shared the process will be transparent. The criteria for the reduction in Commission size will be presented to the Commission to be voted on.</p>	Email link for Gender Revolution	Natalie Fountain	Undefined

Commissioner Maihoff shared she will be traveling outside the country in June and will not be able to attend the Commission meeting.			
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## **IX Good News**

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
None			

## **XI Meeting Adjourned**

The Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:59 p.m. by Chair Christopher.